

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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SUBJECT: HOUPHOUET'S NEW YEAR'S EVE SPEECH

1. PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY ONCE AGAIN MADE HIS CUSTOMARY
END OF THE YEAR SPEECH DECEMBER 31. THOUGHTFUL, BALANCING THE
GOOD AND THE BAD, IT CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. PRINCIPAL POINTS
WERE AS FOLLOWS:

2. INTERNATIONAL: FRENCH-AFRICAN RELATIONS EVOLVING WELL. NO
CHANGE IN PORTUGAL'S POSITION ON GUINEA BISSAU, UNFORTUNATELY.
MIDEAST CONFLICT SHOWS DANGER OF LONG-STANDING ARMED CONFRONTA-
TIONS AND THE HEAVY HAND OF SUPER-POWERS ABLE TO EFFECT EITHER
WAR OR PEACE. FOREIGN POLICY IS TO CONTINUE AND DIVERSIFY
RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. VISITS OF LEADERS HERE AND
VISITS ABROAD SHOW IVORIAN WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN AFRICA
WHICH IS UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS. TRIP TO US,
FORTHCOMING VISIT OF DUTCH QUEEN, INCREASING CONTACTS (ESPECIALLY
ECONOMIC) WITH NORTHERN AND EASTERN EUROPE, CLOSER RELATIONS
DEVELOPING WITH SOME LATIN AMERICAN STATES, INDICATE WILLING-
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NESS TO EXPAND CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIPS AND TO GIVE IVORY COAST

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND INTERACT. THE COUNTRY'S POSITION TODAY DEMONSTRATES GREATER CONFIDENCE OF REST OF WORLD IN IVORY COAST AND PLEADS FOR CONTINUATION OF ACTIONS OF DIALOGUE AND PEACE.

3. PETROLEUM: ALTHOUGH NOT JUST RICH COUNTRIES TOUCHED, CRISIS SHOWS THIRD WORLD DETERMINATION TO HAVE SOME INFLUENCE IN RESOLVING SITUATIONS OF WHICH IT TOO OFTEN THE VICTIM. RICH HAVE CREATED UNFAIR SYSTEM OF DEALING WITH RESOURCES OF LDCS TO ADVANTAGE OF FORMER. PERHAPS CRISIS WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE NEW POLICY OF BALANCED RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN RICH AND POOR AND BRING ABOUT INCREASINGLY OVERLAPPING INTERESTS OF THE TWO SIDES WHICH, AS AN EFFECT, WILL RESULT IN A LASTING PEACE IN MIDEAST.

4. PARTY: OFFICIALS MUST CONTINUE TO RELATE TO PEOPLE TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND TO KEEP THEM INVOLVED IN WHAT IS HAPPENING.

5. AUSTERITY: COUNTRY MUST KEEP CAREFUL EYE ON WORLD INFLATION AND MUST BE INCREASINGLY PRUDENT AND AUSTERE AT HOME.

6. RURAL DEVELOPMENT: RURAL EXODUS MUST BE CONTAINED. TO DO SO, THERE MUST BE MODERNIZATION OF COUNTRYSIDE, WITH ACTION ON EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND EQUIPPING. NATIONAL OFFICE OF RURAL PROMOTION SHOULD ASSIST THIS PROCESS GREATLY IN COMING YEAR. IN CONNECTION WITH EQUIPPING, WE RECEIVED FINANCING OF WELL DRILLING PROGRAM DURING RECENT US VISIT.

7. ADMINISTRATION AND EDUCATION: CIVIL SERVICE SHOULD PLACE INCREASED EMPHASIS ON ASSIGNMENTS IN INTERIOR, ON TRAINING, AND ON COMPETENCE. ALTHOUGH EXPENDITURES FOR EDUCATION TOTAL 30 PERCENT OF BUDGET, THERE IS MUCH THAT IS UNSATISFACTORY. AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATING BODY NEEDS TO BE ESTABLISHED, REPORTING TO HIGHEST LEVEL, TO DEAL WITH ENSEMBLE OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT.

8. FUTURE: PATH TO WELL-BEING AND JUST AND HARMONIOUS SOCIETY LONG AND HARD. WE MAKE OR BREAK FUTURE ACCORDING TO WHETHER WE CAN PASS OVER CLASS INTERESTS, QUARRELS OF PRIDE, AND SELFISHNESS.

9. COMMENT: HOUPHOUET HAS BEEN MAKING POINT FOR SOME TIME ABOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNFAIRNESS OF WORLD SYSTEM OF MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, AND ENERGY CRISIS ENABLES HIM TO REINFORCE ARGUMENT OF NEED FOR ACTION IN CHANGING IT. HIS COMMENT ABOUT DIVERSIFYING RELATIONS IS SURE TO LEAD TO A SPATE OF SPECULATION AMONG FOREIGN OBSERVERS HERE AS TO WHETHER ESTABLISHMENT OF TIES WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IF OFFING, BUT WE WENT THROUGH SAME EXERCISE LAST YEAR, AND DEVELOPMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY STRIKING SINCE THEN. CERTAINLY CHANGES IN IVORIAN RELATIONS WITH MIDDLE EAST CAN BE

CONSIDERED TO FALL WITHIN SPHERE OF THAT POLICY, IN ANY CASE. HOUPHOUET'S COMMENTS RE NEED TO STOP RURAL EXODUS BY GETTING AT ROOT CAUSES WERE WELL FORMULATED, AND ONE CAN ONLY HOPE THIS COUNTRY MAY YET FIND KEY TO KEEP ITS CITIZENS AWAY FROM THE BRIGHT LIGHTS. IF GOIC CAN REALLY MUSTER RESOURCES AND LAUNCH COORDINATED EFFORT, AS IT IMPLIES IT WILL DO, THE ACHIEVEMENT WILL BE CONSIDERABLE INDEED. AT LEAST UNDERSTANDING OF ROOT CAUSES IS A SOUND BEGINNING.

10. INTERESTINGLY, DONA-FOLOGO EDITORIAL IN JANUARY 3 FRATERNITE MATIN ON NEW YEAR POINTS OUT THAT PRESIDENT'S GOOD WORDS ARE OFTEN PLACED BY IVORIANS IN DARK CORNER, THEIR APPLICATION FALLING FAR SHORT OF WHAT IT SHOULD BE. HE CITES AS EXAMPLES FAILURE OF SOME TO PRACTICE AUSTERITY AND POOR ATTITUDE OF SOME CIVIL SERVANTS TOWARD POPULATION. FOLOGO APPEALED TO IVORIANS TO CARRY OUT HOUPHOUET'S COUNSELS.
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